

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH

(ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Staffed by the Josephites since 1952

FEBRUARY 18, 2024



4600 REED ROAD, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77051-2857
Parish Office: 713.738.2311; Fax: 713.738.3337
CCE Office: 713.731.2775; SVdP Food Pantry: 713.731.2716
Parish Hall: 713.731.2725
WEB Address: <http://www.sfxhouston.com>
E-MAIL: stfrancishou@sfxhouston.com
Parish Office Hours: Tues-Wed 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Fri 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Closed on Mon & Thur
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/StFrancisXavierCatholicChurchHouston> YouTube: St. Francis Xavier Houston

MISSION STATEMENT

We, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as expressed in the beliefs and traditions of the Holy Roman Catholic Church. Through a passion for righteousness and consciousness of duty to God, we uphold the faithful worship of God in our mission to our church family and the Sunnyside Community.

PASTOR:

Vy. Rev. Michael Thompson, SSJ

DEACONS:

Michael V. Jenkins

Darryl K. Drenon

Frank J. Laugermann (Retired)

PARISH SECRETARY

Shirley M. Foreman.....x113

DIR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Unella Baber.....x103

ADULT FORMATION (RCIA)

Deacon Michael V. Jenkins

SVdP FOOD PANTRY

Curtis Jones 713.731.2716

CONTRIBUTIONS/MEMBERSHIP

Agnes Thompson

HALL MANAGER

Hilton S. Williams 713.542.0120

PLANT MANAGER/MAINTENANCE

Curtis Jones

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sat: Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sun: 7:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday: 7:00 a.m.

First Friday: 7:00 a.m.

Holy Days: 7:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m.

CONFESSIONS

One (1) hour before Weekend Masses or by appointment

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

First Friday: 7:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

CHOIR REHEARSALS:

Adult Choirs

Wednesdays: 6:30p.m.

Thursdays: 7:00p.m.

Youth Choir

4th Saturdays: 12:00 Noon

CHOIR DIRECTORS:

Jerry Givens 281.772.9276

Daniel Guerrero 281.723.9948

Mikayla Peugh

BIBLE STUDY/ADULT CATHECHISM:

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

VISITATION OF THE SICK

Communion for the sick and shut-in is available. Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Please call the parish office for information. Preparation classes are required for parents and godparents. Classes are held on the 1st and 2nd Thursdays of the month from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Call the Parish Office to register for the class.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Please contact a priest a minimum of six months prior to your proposed wedding date.

WELCOME VISITORS/NEWCOMERS

To register, call or come by the parish office or visit our website at: www.sfxhouston.com

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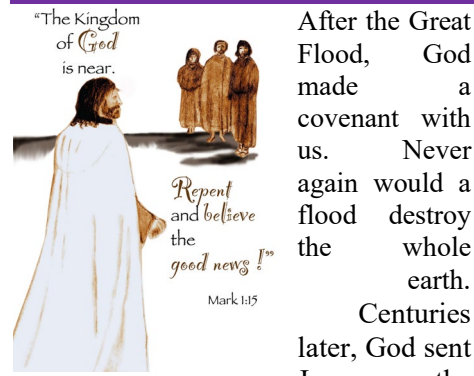
Save the number as a contact in your mobile phone for easy giving.

MASS INTENTIONS		
SAT.	02/17/2024	5:00PM
<i>Ruth Johnson (D)</i> – Theresa Baltrip		
SUN.	02/18/2024	7:30AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
SUN.	02/18/2024	10:00AM
<i>Roland Biagas (D)</i> – Patricia Session		
MON.	02/19/2024	7:00AM
<i>Beatrice Francis Eaglin (D)</i> -J. Henderson		
TUE.	02/20/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
WED.	02/21/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
THUR	02/22/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
FRI	02/23/2024	7:00AM
<i>Kristina M. Chaney (D)</i> Family & Friends		
SAT	02/24/2024	5:00PM
<i>People of the Parish</i>		



Please Pray for... Donald Abraham, Den Alfred Abram, Akaycia Addison, Azielee Addison, Kayne Addison, Nathan Addison IV, Mary Clara Barras, Felicia Baul, Savannah Blackwell, Hazel S. Brown, Kenyatta Brown, Robert Brown, Augustina Buckman, Julius Cadoree, Margaret Cadoree, Nancy Calvin, Dalton Cooper Jr, Foley Davis, Frank Davis Sr, Rev. Henry Davis SSI, Judy Davis, Marlene Davis, Lois Epps, Allison & Stanley Eskine, Lawrence Frank, Anthony Gobert, Tristian Gore, Alexander Guillory Jr, Angel Guillory, Geraldine Guillory, Beulah Hadrick, Mary Hamilton, Alvin J. Hebert, Donald Henderson, Floyd Henderson, Anthony Hicks, Crystal Jackson, Freddy Jackson, Natalie Johnson, Brooke Joseph, Gregory Joseph, Shirley Ann Joseph, Kennedy Family Members, Ann & Leo Kennerson, JoAnn LaSane, Elon Lawdins, Roy Lee, Den Edward Levine, Hazel Lewis, Laurenzia Lewis, Jimmie Mack, Eugene Mallery, Charles Martin, Shannon Martin, Diane Miles, Bahattin Mizrak, Cookie Mooring, Yusuf Muwwakkil, Vy. Rev. William L. Norvel SSI, Carolyn Ollison, Angela Pena, Cynethia Pichon, Percy Pichon Sr, Robin Pichon-Mosley, Catherine Pierre, Mildred Pierre, Marcelle Prevost, Elise Richmond, John & Christine Roberts, Wilson Robertson, Brian Russell, Grace Russell, Vy. Rev. Michael K. Saah-Buckman SSI, Robert Salazar, Lillie Sims, Joyce Smith, Joyce Stagg, Mackenzie Swanks, Kennedy Swanks, Erma Taylor, Craig Temple, Melvin Thomas, Gemma Walcott, Agnes Williams, Patricia Williams, Jamee Wilson, Jamie Wilson, Rockale Wilson, Terrell Wilson, Janice Woods, Gail Young, and all the sick and shut-in in our parish family. **Call the Parish Office when you and/or a family member are ill, in the hospital, or having surgery.**

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



After the Great Flood, God made a covenant with us. Never again would a flood destroy the whole earth. Centuries later, God sent Jesus as the new covenant. As we hear in the second reading, Jesus suffered for our sins to lead us to God. In today's Gospel, Jesus emerges from forty days in the desert, proclaiming that this is the time to repent and believe. Let us heed his message as we listen to God's word.

Lenten
Worship
Schedule

Outdoor Stations of the Cross
(In the Prayer Garden-Weather Permitting)
Every Friday during Lent
5:30pm

Holy Week
Palm Sunday – March 24
Holy Thursday – March 28
Mass6:00pm
(No Morning Mass)
Good Friday – March 29
Outdoor Stations..... 2:00pm
Passion Play.....3:00pm
Good Friday Service.....4:00pm
(No Mass)
Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)
March 30
Mass.....8:00pm
(No 5:00pm Mass)
Easter Sunday - March 31
Regular Mass Schedules
7:30am and 10:00am

Lord, we pray for all our current military service members.
Army: Barbara Baber, Sade Beck, Wadie Troy Butler, Patrick Clay Jr, Kalah A. Guidry, Kerry Hubbard, Kory Hubbard, LaTroy King, Gary Christian Robertson, Anthony Lamar Smith II, Jordan T. McCorkle, Essence L. Casteel **Navy:** Alvin Balthazar, Debreanna Brown, Jermaine Ceaser, Kevin Crockett, Courtney Harris, Nia D. Hawkins, Xavier Henry, Randolph J. Navy III, Anthony N. Russell **Air Force:** Roderick Jones, Joshua Creeks, Joffre Lander **Marines:** Reginald Ward

- READINGS FOR THE WEEK**
- **Sunday – February 18**
1st Sunday of Lent
Genesis 9:8-15
Psalm 25:4-9
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:12-15
 - **Monday – February 19**
Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18
Psalm 19:8-10, 15
Matthew 25:31-46
 - **Tuesday – February 20**
Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalm 34:4-7, 16-19
Matthew 6:7-15
 - **Wednesday – February 21**
Saint Peter Damian, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Jonah 3:1-10
Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19
Luke 11:29-32
 - **Thursday – February 22**
The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
1 Peter 5:1-4
Psalm 23:1-6
Matthew 16:13-19
 - **Friday – February 23**
Saint Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr
Ezekiel 18:21-28
Psalm 130:1-8
Matthew 5:20-26
 - **Saturday – February 24**
Deuteronomy 26:16-19
Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8
Matthew 5:43-48

EASTER CANDLE

Thank you to **Florence McChristian** and **Wanda Johnson** for sponsoring the Easter Candle this year In Memory Of **Leo Prescott, Jr.** and **Eula Mae Holley.**



Feb 19th
NO CCE CLASSES
Feb 24th9:30am
Pre-K -5th Grades
Black History Program
Feb 26th6:00pm
6th-10th Grades
Black History Program
Mar 2nd
NO CCE CLASSES



Lent is coming!
 Join our faith community – and nearly 13,000

Catholic communities across the United States – in a transformative Lenten journey with **CRS Rice Bowl**. Pick up your family’s CRS Rice Bowl from the vestibule of the church. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on the impact of global hunger and climate change on vulnerable communities around the world, and we will pray, fast and give alms to help our sisters and brothers in need. Visit www.crsricebowl.org to learn more.



Travel with Fr. Thompson on a **Pilgrimage to Italy** on **Oct 13-21, 2024**. We will visit **Rome, Assisi, Milan, Tuscany, Florence**

and **Venice**. The cost is **\$4,299.00** which includes:

- Flights from anywhere in the United States and flights between countries as per your itinerary; Daily Mass
- Airport Taxes, Security Fees & Fuel Surcharges; Transfers as per itinerary
- Transportation with luxury bus
- 4 or 5 star hotels in downtown areas
- All breakfasts and all dinners. Wine Included with all dinners.
- All tips to driver, hotel, and tour guide
- Guided Tours and Tour Fees
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- Passengers will never be expected to pay extra for anything

To register, please contact **(855) 842-8001** or **(508) 340-9370**. You can also register online at: www.proximotravel.com.



Russell James Robinson passed away on February 9, 2024 at the age of 80 yrs. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on February 24, 2024. Eternal Rest grant unto his soul.

FISH FRY!
Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2024

11:00am – 6:00pm
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CAKES (a day or two prior)
Monetary Donations are Welcome
 We will do the shopping for you.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

PRISON MINISTRIES The SFX Prison Ministry will meet in the Harris Center Auditorium on Wednesday, **February 21st**, at 6:00pm. Call **(713) 446-4279**, or email us for additional information: makeitbetter4us23@gmail.com

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Did you know that Catholics can make an Act of Spiritual Communion?

When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the prayer below:

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion
My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, Come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

Stewardship Reflection
 That we may place our lives in God’s hands and have the strength to carry out His unique plan for each us. “After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...” - Mark 1:14 Have you ever thought about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to go to Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that He was proclaiming. It took great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, living a stewardship lifestyle takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that He will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.



For eight decades, UNCF and the faith community have partnered together to support students attending historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). St. Francis Xavier will host “**UNCF Sunday**”, a day of financial support to HBCUs, on Sunday, **February 25, 2024**. With your support, UNCF can provide the financial resources member HBCUs need to educate the next generation of professionals and community leaders.

ATTENDANCE

In-person Mass attendance on Saturday, February 10th and Sunday, February 11th was **434** and the 7:30am Sunday Mass Livestream received **91** views. Please join us via YouTube Livestream, or bring a friend to come worship with us in the church.



Lent Prepares Us for Easter, Our Life on Earth Prepares Us for Heaven

Happy Sunday! Today is the First Sunday of Lent. How are we doing so far? Have you kept your commitment so far on what you decided to do for Lent? Or...are you still undecided on what you are going to do? Many of us were caught off guard on Ash

Wednesday because it seems like it

came so fast this year. It snuck up on us. So here is a question, will the sacrifice or change we are willing to make, during Lent, bring us closer to Jesus? You see...this is why we make the commitment. We model Jesus' sacrifice in the desert, for forty days, to prepare our minds and our hearts for Easter. We do it to become closer to Jesus. For instance, if you've decided to cut back on watching TV or cut back on social media, are you replacing that time by devoting more time to prayer? Or, if you've decided to do more of something, rather than to cut out something...could that bring you closer to Jesus? One could decide to go to Mass twice a week or read the Bible every day during Lent.

Lent Prepares Us for Easter, Our Life on Earth Prepares Us for Heaven

Now, brothers and sisters, once we have committed to make a change to get closer to Jesus, guess who is ready to de-rail us from our plan. The evil one. The minute we are moving in the direction toward God, the devil is ready to step-in and knock us off track. Satan does NOT like our getting close to God and will do anything to de-rail our attempts at holiness. Satan wants us Christians...who are on track. He doesn't want the ones who are off track because he's already got them. So...in today's Gospel reading, we see that the devil is trying to knock Jesus off track. The Gospel readings for Lent always commence with the story of the temptation. Jesus goes out into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Again, the devil always has one purpose in the bible and that is to move us off the path that leads to God. His goal is to switch our desire in the direction of something other than God. So, the devil confronts Jesus and tempts him. Now Jesus had been in the desert for days and nights fasting and praying. He is alone, he is isolated. He is exhausted. I imagine, in his humanness, that he is weak. This is the time that Satan chooses to strike. He wants to tempt and de-rail Jesus when he is hungry, isolated, and tired. So, he tells Jesus, in Luke's Gospel, to turn these stones into bread. In other words, the devil is telling Jesus to make the desires of the flesh the priority over God. The devil wants us to make sensual pleasure the center of our life. He wants us to make the satisfaction of our bodily desires the center of our life...for food, for drink, for intimacy, and for pleasure. Now...we like the pleasures of the body. We think they are good; they are God given. But, when they become dominant, when they become the Lord of your life, then your deepest desire for God isn't realized. And so, Jesus says, to the devil, in Matthew, Chap 4, that, "**It is written: one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.**" In other words, Jesus says, I refuse to use my power for my own benefit and accept whatever God wills. The devil goes on to tempt Jesus 2 more times while he is in the desert. He proposes to Jesus that he throw himself down off the parapet of the temple. In this 2nd test, the devil threw out scripture on Jesus. So...be careful, brothers and sisters, the devil knows scriptures too. The devil quoted Psalm 91:11 when he tells Jesus, "**He will command his angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.**" The devil quotes scripture because he wants Jesus to put God to the test. There are people in the world today who may know and quote scripture to get us to do things against God's will. Watch out for them brothers and sisters. Don't let them get you derailed. Temptation is a very real part of life and is especially challenging in our wilderness

times. When we are down, discouraged, afraid, disappointed, and lonely. Satan loves to kick us when we are down. And if you are Christian, you are going to get hit. I imagine some of us feel like we are getting hit right now. We've lost our job, inflation is killing us and we can't make ends meet, we've come down with an illness, our kids have gone astray, and some of us...have lost a loved one. We are going to have these storms of life that hit us. Sometimes they hit us and we didn't even see it coming. Brothers and sisters, when we find ourselves in the wilderness, it gives us an opportunity to turn toward God and not away from God. When we put it in God's hands, we can find a way. 'God may not be there when you want Him, but He's always right on time.'

Lent Prepares Us for Easter, Our Life on Earth Prepares Us for Heaven

The Good News is...being in the wilderness is an opportunity for victory. It's an opportunity for victory with our Lord. You see...God is molding us for something greater. And our wilderness can be a part of that molding process. So we have victory when we rise up to meet the challenges head on and persevere:

- We rise up when we do the right thing.
- When we stay faithful to God
- When we put our trust in God
- When we sit still and listen God
- We rise up when we love others as God loves us.

The Good News here is that God strengthens us to rise up and meet all of our challenges. He strengthens us because He is with us. Jesus is with us when we are in the wilderness. And He knows what it's like to be tempted. He knows what it's like to get hit. He was hungry and isolated and tired. Sometimes we get hungry and isolated and tired.

- There will be times when our physical energy levels are low
- Times when we've been working too much
- Times when we are stressed and frustrated
- Times when we are feeling alone

We may feel like giving up...like tapping out. We may feel like giving in to the temptation to do the wrong thing. We are tired of the hits.

This is when, Brothers and Sisters, we must turn toward Jesus. St Paul wrote about this experience to the Church in Corinth, in 2 Corinthians, when he says, "**We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.**"

Brothers and sisters, in Jesus, we share in His suffering in the wilderness and in His glory in His resurrection. Again, He is with us. He won't let us down. Jesus loves us. Now some of you may be thinking, Deacon Darryl, I'm not in the wilderness right now. Things are going fine. I am on the mountaintop. My marriage is great; my relationship with my kids and my family is great; and my health is great. I even got all my vaccines. My business or job is going well. I am not hungry or isolated or tired right now. Well...we still have some of our brothers and sisters...around us...in the wilderness. Even though things are great for you, God could be calling you to be Jesus' hands and feet for someone else in need. We can respond and we can help to ease the suffering of someone else. We can let Jesus act through us to ease the loneliness, care for people in need, and comfort those who are anxious or heartbroken or ill. People in need...need our love and our presence. They need our prayers. They need us to be proclaimers of hope and the Gospel, which is the Good News. Wherever we are today...whether we are in the wilderness or on the mountaintop or somewhere in between, let us recognize that Jesus is with us. Let us always stay turned toward him. Let us stay prayed up. Let us continue this week to prepare our hearts and minds, during Lent, for the coming of Easter.

Lent Prepares Us for Easter, Our Life on Earth Prepares Us for Heaven

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THEME:
**THE SPIRITUALITY OF BROKEN
DISCIPLESHIP, John 12:24**

DATE: MARCH 2ND, 2024

TIME: Breakfast - 9:00 A.M.

Program - 9:30 A.M. - 5:00 P.M

PLACE: ST. MARY OF THE PURIFICATION CATHOLIC
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MODERATOR: FR. SEBASTINE SOJA OKOYE
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS!!!

Please R.S.V.P on or before February 25th, 2024

Sr. Elizabeth Adebij, SSMA – (281) 788-0002,

Mr. Eric Erigha, MFSSMA – (832) 353-6733

138 Unit, Parents, & Parishioners



in many different languages for your **SUPPORT** by purchasing a dinner(s) and/or giving a donation for the **Junior's Super Bowl Fundraiser**. Because of your continuous support, our fundraiser was a



138 Junior Division





St. Francis Xavier Church

Trivia Questions

Let's see how much you know about your parish, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church.

1. What year was the old St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church built?
A. 1952 B. 1956 C. 1960 D. 1961
2. What year was the 1st St. Francis Xavier Rectory built?
A. 1952 B. 1956 C. 1960 D. 1961
3. What year was the newest St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church built?
A. 1974 B. 1975 C. 1977 D. 1978
4. Who was the first African American pastor assigned to St. Francis Xavier?
A. Father Kenneth Howard B. Father Brian Fox C. Father Charles Andrus D. Father Elbert Harris
5. Did the parish or Diocese pay to have the new Harris Center and Rectory built?
A. Yes B. No
6. Including Father Michael Thompson, how many pastors have St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church had?
A. 20 B. 16 C. 19 D. 17
7. How many associate pastors did SFX have?
A. 30 B. 35 C. 25 D. 29
8. In 1951, _____ acres of land was purchased to build St. Francis Xavier Church.
A. 6½ B. 5 C. 5½ D. 6
9. St. Francis Xavier Prayer Garden was established in _____.
A. 2014 B. 2015 C. 2016 D. 2017
10. Including Father Michael Thompson, how many black priests have St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church had?
A. 3 B. 4. C. 5. D. 8



Answers: 1 (A); 2(B); 3(B); 4(D); 5(B); 6(D); 7(A); 8(C); 9(B); 10(C)

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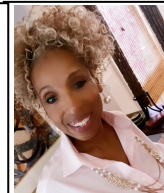
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